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Vanitas Vanitatum; omnia vanitas.
ECCLES.

Vanity of vanities; all is vanity.

To the Aeronauts.

Gentlemen

There is no branch of modern philosophy, which has been so much abused and so little studied with any degree of attention,

as that of female attire. It is unquestionably one of the most important divisions of physical research; as on it depends the welfare of a part of the species, without which it would be difficult for us to make any clever progress towards perfection.

The only point to which I shall at present call your notice, is that of corsetry or the modern stays. Being professor of anthropometrics and having lately come out from France, I am qualified to speak on the subject, and desire to give notice through your paper to the lovely part of the creation, and to such of their husbands as wish to save them in time from the grave and to have orgeous posterity, that I have discovered a new article in that line; which, while it answers every purpose of art preserves that portion of the frame, in which, according to Burke, a beautiful woman is most beautiful. It gives the semiglobular projections on the anterior side of the body, a graceful and pleasing rotundity. In this unnatural distortion, it communicates the

elegance which distinguishes a lady born dame from a prot-corsetier. It is easy without laxity, and tight without constraint.

I have shewn it to the celebrated antiquarian, naturalist, politician and philologist of this county, who approves the plan and has signified ~~by~~ his assent to its usefulness; and I have these incalculable beneficial inventions now for sale at a cheap rate. I am, gentlemen your most obeyeing-

PETER SOUPMEAGER.

Our friend, like all other professors thinks his own art or mystery the most worthy of cultivation of any of the sciences. This is a natural consequence of devotion to any particular trade. It is however curious to hear the arguments adduced on all sides by men of different avocations, to shew the superiority of their own branches of knowledge over every other. M. Soupmeager ingenuously advances, that the health of women is of the utmost importance to individuals and to the body politic. And a fashionable

consult meter has that health as much in his power, and a great deal more than an eminent physician can have. For the stirring pleasures of the former, the fair sex will be sure to make use of, although there are more enemies in them, than in the garment of Egeria. Whereas the prescriptions of the latter generally fail of their effect from immoderate eating, when they are even attended to.

The Lawyer thinks his profession the noblest, because without it society would all down be disorganized. The Physician has as good ground for giving his own studies the preference. The lecturer on cabbages and cauliflowers equally lays out art with equal justice, because the Lord put Adam in a garden.

Thinking on this subject I fell asleep very sarcastically; and after having paid so high a compliment to the brilliance of my own thoughts, the following vision came upon me.

Methought I was seized by an invisible power and carried with a slow swiftness far above the earth and beyond the atmosphere of the planet. Enveloped in cloud, at length my invisible conductor paused with his burthen, and a voice bade me mark what was to follow. The fields gradually disappeared from my eyes; the clouds and mists rolled away from before them, and I beheld the earth once more beneath my feet. I distinctly marked the curve of its surface, defined on the circumambient atmosphere; but the latter was unpenetrable, except where a few dark spots betrayed the summits of the mountains beneath. Suddenly I heard a wild deep scream, that shook the universe, and seemed to make every sphere tremble and start in its orbit. Then a gigantic figure came flying above the terrene hemisphere of air. He was entirely bald, having a single lock of silvery hair that hung over his front and streamed in the current which his own velocity excited. His beard too of an immeasurable length floated wild

-ly around him. He brandished an enormous scythe and cast about him glances so bright that the light of his eye revealed the bare convex surface of the earth. Then a word was spoken in a language which I knew not; but its intonations were deeper than the thunder, when the lightning cleaves and uproots the forests of Atlas. The old man trembled, and the earth trembled beneath him. Another form came rushing on my view. His stature was far greater than that of the old man. He was terrible; and his bones exceeded in size the pillars of the temple of Olympian Jove. But I marked his sinews of iron, and I saw his heart of adamant. There were no sockets for his eye-balls; for the power that created him had not given him even the mockery of sight. The old man bowed in the agony of fear; his scythe fell from his grasp. The destroyer seized him by his single lock, and as the pebble flies from the sling of the child, he hurled him down the realms of unpenetrable space, where my vision

faded from the giddy altitude.

The other form leaped away without my perception of his flight, as the ball is shunted from the mouth of the culverin. Then I beheld a strange confusion of images, which crowded the picture with an countless multitude of indefinite and indescribable objects, of all shapes, sizes and colors. The atmosphere of the earth was gone; and I beheld the anarchy of the elements.

But I marked a motley troop of fantastic beings, shaped like merry-andrews, sporting amid the chaos with strange motions and uncouth gestures. They seemed amid a variety of antic gestures to be performing some magical rites; and I soon witnessed the result of their preparations.

For a subtle smoke or vapor floated over the prospect, which being gradually attenuated and rendered murky, presented the appearance of a vast black mirror, before which the singular spirits of my visions danced in a wild and irregular man-

ner. When they had made an end of their sports, I marked before the surface of the mirror the forms of the Pyramids of Egypt. In the midst on a throne of gold and ivory, sat their founder, blazing with jewels; while a multitude, whom I could not number, were prostrate around them. The spirits clapped their hands, and, in an instant, I saw nothing but piles of that produce which adorns the barn yard of the industrious farmer: while in the middle, on a three legged stool, painted with every color, sat an overgrown boy with a foolscap on his head.

Again I looked, and the scene was entirely changed. I now saw Xerxes on the Grecian promontory; I saw Abou with darkened the surface of the mirror, moving in despising columns around his throne. The monarch bowed down his head and wept: The spirits began to clap, and the pageant faded from my view. In its room I saw a New England Far-

ner, driving a prodigious number of sheep to the slaughter house; and, as the butcher appeared at a distance, his philanthropic bosom appeared to give vent to its feelings in tears.

In a moment the picture was changed. I beheld the supreme Pontiff in his robes, seated in the papal chair, with his cardinals round him. Before him I saw crowned heads licking the dust around his feet; and, at a distance, without the porch of the Vatican, methought I beheld a man: march shivering in sackcloth, bare foot and bare headed, while the crowd was driving about him, supplicating for admission.

As the visions vanished, I beheld an old woman, in a petticoat of all dies, patched with every variety of cloth, with a cap on her head, a bunch of rods in one hand, and a primer in the other, looking sourly upon two or three dozen of little ragged urchins; one of whom she had placed in a corner, who was bawling most lustily.

Next I beheld a magnificent hall: I saw the Judges seated on their elevated platform, a vast crowd surrounding the bar of Justice; the Jury sworn in: while a little man in black was making violent gestures with one hand, and pointing with the other to a lady and child in deep mourning. By this I understood that he was pleading for the widow and the orphan.

When the scene was again shifted, methought that it resembled the inside of a church. I saw a man going round among the congregation and collecting gold and silver. When he had received something from all, he quietly pocketed the contents into his pocket, and walked away.

Then I beheld an orator haranguing the populace; they rushed to arms with a tumultuous motion, and carried a bloody banner, on which was inscribed Revenge and Liberty. I started

again, and only saw a thief knocking down a constable.

Then I dimly beheld a vast library. Of solitary tapers was burning on a table, by which sat a man, contracted with study, and on whose brow the seams of the lamps revealed the deep indented lines of profound thought. It was full of manuscripts was scattered around him, and he was engaged in adding to the number.

I looked again, and saw a mountain upon mountain heaving themselves on the land from which the ocean waves had just retreated.

I have not time to describe all I saw. In dreams the perception takes in vision with the velocity of light, and the phenomena altered so incessantly as to time, that he said he had witnessed seven centuries in a second.

Then I finally saw with amaze-

ment and confusion, a balloon appear in the mirror, from the car of which all our fraternity very deliberately descended, one after the other. I was afraid to behold what was next to come; and, as I turned away my head the deep voice of my invisible guide cried out, "When Fate has ungirded time, such will be the view that disembodied spirits will take of the crowns of earthly splendour, and the prudence of human science." I turned again to see the end of all, and the beams of morning were breaking through the crevices of my window shutters.

S.